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Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [August 23, 1940]

Virginia Brainard

Constance Brainard

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STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

PLACEMENT BUREAU

August 23, 1940

Dear Mother and Daddy,

We have been having terrible weather lately! Cold and now its raining. This house is worse than the inside of a clamshell. We can't even keep warm in bed. If I had any more clothes that weren't in mothballs I'd have them on. Poor Grandma - she's got on her bathrobe and three shawls. Its 52° now outside and the house is about 55° - we can almost see our breath. So Grandma, Connie, El and I have just tried to build a fire in the fireplace. First we piled in alot of paper and then wood on top of that and then coal. When the fire kept dying, as it did every other shovelful, we'd ~~pop~~ ^{pep} it up with some dried leaves. I don't dare look to see how our cooperative efforts are holding up but Connie says warm air is coming out of the registers. Its so cold, I wouldn't even mind if the whole house burned to the cellar if it'd make it plenty hot for just an hour!

Daddy, I got my marks today. Two A's!! Just cross my palm with silver! Not bad? My marks are transferred now - they went out yesterday - we transferred my gym course as an Incomplete. I'd rather have it that way than having to mess up a pretty good record with a D. Even if I have to take it over, I don't care.

And do ^{you} know what I just figured out? I started reading my catalogue the other day and

Freshman Days don't start until Sept 19 instead of Sept. 12. I don't leave until Sept. 18 - I have another week! And here I've been telling all these sorority girls that I'm leaving for school Sept. 11 - they'll think I live way up on Hudson Bay if it's going to take me a week to get down to school. Oh, yes - I got a Pi Phi letter and paper Wednesday which were duly answered, etc.

Tried on my clothes yesterday. They're coming along swell! Tell Auntie Cora what we're going to do with the formal she sent me, Mother. I had to get lining for my brown coat and lining for my navy jacket.

I got my roommate's address yesterday. She's from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I wrote her immediately and asked all about what to do with our curtain and drape situation.

Robyn is coming to visit me this week-end and I'm glad that's the way it worked out. She's coming Sunday and will leave Wednesday. I'm not going to do much - maybe have some of the kids she knows in to sit and talk one evening but I'm not going to feed them or do anything that costs any money. I can't spend any money on her because they're only a dollar left out of the money Daddy left me. I paid for my shoes \$1.75, bought some shirt grippers \$1.45 and then paid Mrs. Muller and gave Connie and Ed some money and bought some groceries and stamps out of it, too. I got Robyn and me some dates for Monday night ~~and~~ Tuesday night. I went to the show with Fred and Don McKibben also come over that night ~~after~~ before Fred came for

2
line I'm going to the fairgrounds with Fred tomorrow night.

Jan Burdick had a perfectly wonderful picnic for Joanne, Quik and me Wednesday evening. We had it down on the river on the Raymond estate near the hospital. It's a simply beautiful place — outdoor fireplace, landscaped and terraced gardens. Next Wed. or Thurs. Doris May is giving a big tea for me. Fun! Going-away-to-college is more fun than getting married.

Daddy, last Tuesday Fred Heglund ("Mr. Smorgasbord") was killed in an automobile accident near Miles City, N.D. John Lane and Bob Miller were with him. Bob was just shaken up but the last I heard Johnny was still unconscious.

You haven't had many calls or letters this week about Placement work but I've turned everything over to Miss Spicer so far. This letter about the farm came yesterday, tho', and I'm enclosing it because it might be something you'll want to take care of.

School is over today, thanks Heaven! We had a final test in Economics but I didn't have to take it because he was giving me an A anyhow. Dr. Munn didn't give up any written exams either, but we've had oral reviews all

this past week. Today she's going to finish up by telling us about some of her experiences in Europe.

Connie, El and I have had hardly any fights to speak of so far. Things are rather dull around here, consequently but we've all been busy. Connie is doing a swell job of housekeeping and El will cooperate usually except on the dishwashing situation. The food is good and ~~there~~ there is plenty of it too. I'm gaining weight but Eleanor's still trying to reduce. She's finished painting the dressing table and we're going to take it up to the attic this afternoon. They have big plans for rearranging the place and they sound very sensible (Connie's influence) and very attractive (El's contribution). It's typical of both of them for Connie to contribute the "sensibleness" and Eleanor the beauty.

Connie has been over at band practice nearly twice a day and practicing very hard up in the attic the rest of the time. She's thrilled stiff about being a member of the band but is afraid she won't even be able to learn the music, let alone play it fast enough to even walk to. She has trouble with learning

3 how to march, too. She says it's so complicated that she gets mixed up, but I don't think it'll take her very long to pick up it up. Connie's still sewing on her dress! She's trying to hem it now and I think she must have but three different hems in that skirt!!

Eleanor bought herself a darling beige sweater yesterday and wants to buy another one now, but I'd rather she waited until you get home. I still need a sweater and a blouse, too. Can I get them now?

Granma is just fine. We haven't had any more news about Aunt Julia and I haven't told her everything Edward told me.

I've just come back from my last class! Dr. Mann talked to us about Europe. Got home and the fire is doing all right. The chill is off the house now but I put some more coal in it. Connie got her ^{coat} uniform this morning — the pants were Johnny Gilman's and the jacket Jimmy Jackson's but she looks plenty swell in it!

I can't think of any more news. We got your card this morning. Nobody has called and nothing has happened that I know of except what we've been doing. Your travels got into the paper Wed.

night. Miss Gorman called me up and I gave her everything I could thank!!

Mother, Mrs Lawrence wants the other piece of canvas padding from Daddy's suit. She's got one of them but she has to put back of them back into my suit. Where is it?

Mrs. Lewis was over last night. Phil and Ken are going to drive Wally up here to school over the Labor Day holiday. Connie says to tell Ned she didn't forget to feed his fish!

O.K. Don't worry about us -

we can take care of ourselves perfectly well!!

Dear Mom + Daddy

Love,
Virginia

We moved the drawing in the garage yesterday + E.C. painted it ivory. It's up in the attic already + it looks swell. Our Camp Fire group is having a meeting at Mrs. Bettendorf's cottage sometime next week. Lib, Lois, + Sally are coming if they can.

We had marching band ~~pieces~~ practice yesterday + I got my feet all twisted up trying to make some of the turns. It's kinda complicated. We didn't have any music + I had only memorized one piece. but I got along.

Love,
Connie

Dear Mom + Dad,

I hope you're O.K. Don't worry about the furnace - I've watched you so many times + know just how to light it + stuff - even to running the fan.